

From one of Japan's most accomplished artists comes this new graphic novel, the first installment of a two-volume series. In a dark and scary night, a teenage girl is killed, and her body is thrown into a trash can. A Hell Baby is born into a garbage dump. Hell Baby dies in the street, but is brought back to life by an unwilling link of lightning. Hell Baby becomes a hell demon, learning to survive life among the trash canisters and in the garbage dump. After struggling along for seven years, Hell Baby rises up to take his and takes to the city, where she applies her talents. Hell Baby returns to Japan, and the good citizens of Tokyo.

Written with Hell's trademark black humor and out-there imagery, HELL BABY is a dark horror tale to be read.

THE FIRST EVER HELL BABY GRAPHIC NOVEL

HELL BABY is a Hell Baby. Hell Baby has a real chance to attempt to understand the world. A Hell Baby series. —HELL BABY

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PUBLISHED BY BLAST BOOKS, NEW YORK
 FROM DESIGN BY LARRY LITVINSON

HELL BABY

Hideshi Hino

BLAST
 BOOKS

HELL BABY



Hideshi
 Hino

HELL BABY

Like the Worms That Crawl the Earth . . .

Living like the worms that crawl the earth
Discarded like the worms that crawl the earth
Squashed like the worms that crawl the earth
Burdened with grief like the worms that crawl the
earth
Holding your breath like the worms that crawl the
earth

Let us return to the tender darkness
Into the silent, infinite darkness
We shall some day return

from Shin-ye Antsu Poetry of Darkness

HELL BABY

HIDESHI HINO

Translated from the Japanese
by Hiroo Yamagata

BLAST BOOKS
New York



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Half Baby was originally published in Japanese
as *Kōfū Zokochūshi*

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Sound effects translated by Linda Nagash

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Blaut Books gratefully acknowledges the generous help of Yoko Umezawa

Published by Blaut Books, Inc.
P.O. Box 51
Cooper Station
New York, NY 10076-0051

ISBN 0-922253-12-8

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

1. A Dark and Stormy Night







DID SOMETHING GO
WRONG DURING
THE DELIVERY?

DOCTOR, W...
WHAT'S THIS "SOME-
THING SPECIAL"
THAT YOU WANT TO
TELL ME?

AND YOUR WIFE, NATURALLY
CAME OUT FINE. FIT AND
BUT SHE'S SLEEPING
COMFORTABLY ...

NO ... THE DELIVERY
WENT FINE—TWO
GIRLS, JUST AS WE
EXPECTED. NOTHING
REALLY WRONG WITH
THEIR HEALTH ...

U... UMM ...
IT'S ... SSS ...
I'M NOT QUITE
SURE HOW TO TELL
YOU ...

W... WELL,
THEN, WHAT
IS IT?





BUT
BUT THAT IS
IMPOSSIBLE!

NO...
WHAT?!



HAVE A
LOOK AT
"IT"

WELL,
MAYBE YOU'D
BETTER ...



HAVE IT
RATHER

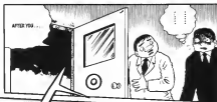
UHH ...



PLEASE ...
TAKE ME
TO HER NOW!

CRACK

NO, NO.
I MUST
SEE HER



SHAGBARKPOLE

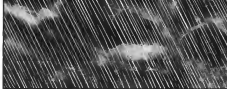














AND SHE ALREADY HAD
TEETH! BE FANGS, TO
BE MORE PRECISE....

HER EYES
WERE ALREADY
OPEN WHEN WE
DELIVERED HER...



IS PROBABLY
ABNORMAL.
ALMOST LIKE....

I'M TERRIBLY
SCARED TO HAVE TO
TELL YOU THIS, BUT
YOUR BABY



CRACK

LIKE A DEMON
CHILD....





This is the dump where all the garbage of this world is heaped.

Here beyond the horizon all the stench of the world reeks.

This is the bleak graveyard where lies all the rubbish of this world.

2. The World's Graveyard



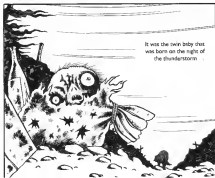














The baby was dead.



stray dogs ...



stray cats ...



Many animals
approached to
feed upon the
small carnion—
starved
crows ...



and rats
came one by one...



But after just one sniff
each beast a hasty retreat,
never to approach again



Was it because the
corpse was so
grotesque, or did
they perhaps sense
something ...

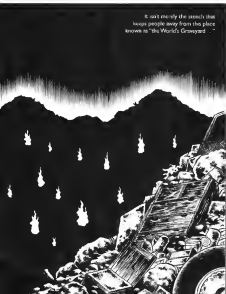


... something
even more
foreboding about
the baby ...!



3. Fireballs

It isn't mainly the stretch that
keeps people away from this place
known as "the World's Graveyard."



and as the morning grows
louder and louder the fireballs
burn brighter and more vibrantly red,
like the color of blood.



At night, weird fireballs
appear out of nowhere to haunt
this treacherous world ...

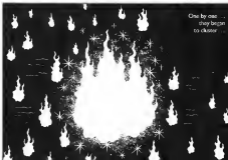
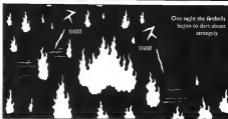


and gradually a wailing chorus
of curses resonates against
the world.



and when they cover this expansive
grave, a moan that seems to sound
from the depths of hell rises ...





until at last, they merged into one
great fireball and became an
enormous ball of light.



And from that
ball of light

a piercing flash of
lightning shot out

and penetrated the
dead baby's body



The little
corpse



THUD

went now nothing, but
a pile of cannon



THUD THUD

started to move,
giving out from
crash...



And then the ball of light
hovered over the baby .



and took her
rest .





restoring the
rotten body...



to its
original form...

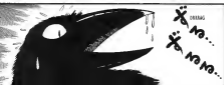


as if she were still
within her mother's
womb.

and inside the fireball,
the baby fell into a
peaceful slumber,

4. Like the Worms That Crawl the Earth





ずる ずる ずる

PARAG

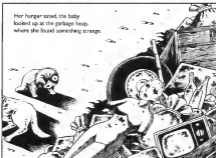




The reborn baby
sucked up the
dead dog's
rancid juice



Her hunger eased, the baby looked up at the garbage heap, where she found something strange.



It was an old, decaying mannequin



An unfamiliar emotion
surged within the baby as she
stared at the mannequin

SHALL, SHALL



The baby had no idea what
this feeling could be or
where it came from.



But the instant she laid
her cheek to rest on the
strange object, she dropped
off into a deep slumber.



After a long sleep
the baby woke,
cold against
this strange object.



The unfamiliar
emotion she had been
feeling covered it was
fading rapidly.



It was a scene
that again
aroused that
unfamiliar
emotion.

Thus ...
the baby smelled
something.



The baby crawled
in the dark,
looking for the
source of the
smell.



The small grow more
pungent as she
continued to crawl



And finally she discovered
its source.



Inside a dream page
she saw some
newborn puppies and
their mother



Especially the baby
crowded into
the page.









Instead,
the baby found
something else



She stared
at the hole.



It reminded her of
the main dog and
puppies she
had seen a little
while ago.



Without knowing why,
the baby was drawn
into the hole.



But there was
nothing inside.



Just the damp
air and the quiet
darkness.

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ん

1997 SEPT



Somehow the baby
felt completely secure
inside the hole.



A tender slumber
began to bloom
in its heart.



Soon the baby was fast
asleep, deep in the
bottomless pit
of sleep.

5. Life in the Graveyard



And so it was
that the baby
took this hole
to her home.



But survival here was
no easy matter for a
newborn baby.





Of course the baby
was not yet strong enough
to catch these animals.



so at least she was
in no danger
of being attacked.

But somehow none of
the animals ever
came very near her.





The baby slumped
muddy water ...



dig in the soil for
insects and
earthworms ...



racked the ribs from
rotting carcasses ...



and just managed
to survive.



And so ...



In this
dump ...



or rather,
the World's
Graveyard ...



seasons
passed



and a full
seven
years



went by

6. Queen of the Graveyard

The baby grew
into a seven-
year-old girl.





to really be
considered
a "girl"

But her body
was much too
grotesque





For her grown body
small insects and carrion
were far too insignificant.





Because the instant they detected her scent they would scurry away.



But her condition made it difficult to catch many other animals.



A few days without the birds' meat all her prey and the girl's body...

would soon start to rot, and
maggots would begin to eat her
alive down to her very bones



Catching live animals to feed
on was literally a matter of
life and death for them.



Knowing that the animals would
flee at her awful smell, the girl
devised a horrible hunting method



She would use
her own body
parts as a lure.







chubly

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP



Using this method, she was
able to catch just about
any animal around





The girl had become
Queen of the World's
Graveyard....

Eventually
no other
creature in
the garbage
dump could
defeat her

Far across the garbage heap
The city lights shone

Down toward
The World's Graveyard

Colorful city lights
Bright, beautiful city lights—

But never will they illumine
The World's Graveyard

7. City Lights





Around this time, the girl became strongly interested in the beautiful city lights.

One night she set off toward the city lights, as if to answer their call ...



Began to arouse that mysterious emotion she had felt such a long time ago.



Suddenly the city lights, which used to stir no feeling in her at all,

staring and tearing at the girl's heart.



This feeling grew stronger day by day.





The girl saw odd-looking
creatures she had never
seen before.



And among
all the odd
creatures, she
noticed some
were even
stranger breeds.







This night the girl
couldn't sleep...



This next day, the girl was eagerly rooting around through the rubbish for something...





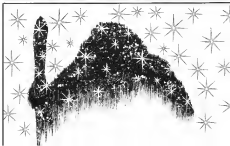


8. The Mysterious Old Woman

That night the fireballs once again
moved about strangely ...









ARISE...!

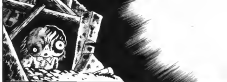


ARISE
AND LISTEN TO
MY WORDS...!

ARISE!
YOU WORM
THAT CRAWLS
THE EARTH...!



COME...
COME OUT OF
THAT DARK HOLE
AND LISTEN TO
WHAT I SAY...!



LISTEN CLOSELY!
THE TIME
HAS COME...!



AGAINST
THE
HUMANS...!

NOW IS THE
TIME FOR
REVENGE



The Mysterious Old Woman was transmitting her thoughts directly to the girl....

The girl of course didn't understand language



BUT BECAUSE
YOU WERE UGLY,
THEY
DISCARDED YOU!

YOU WERE BORN
ONE OF TWO
HUMAN TWINS.



CURSE
YOUR UNFAIR
DESTINY!

CURSE
YOUR OWN
USELESS!



THERE
YOU WILL
DISCOVER
YOUR FINAL
DESTINY....!

YOU MUST
GO NOW
TO THE CITY!





YOUR BLOOD,
YOUR INSTINCTS,
WILL LEAD
THE WAY . . .

NOW, GO!
FOLLOW YOUR
INSTINCTS . . .



AND YOU
WILL FIND A CHANCE
TO ALTER
YOUR DESTINY!

AND THEN YOUR
REVENGE AGAINST
THE HUMANS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR FATE
SHALL BEGIN . . .

GO
TO THE CITY!

NOW
HEAD FOR
THE CITY...





9. The Terrorized City

And so the girl came
to the city once again

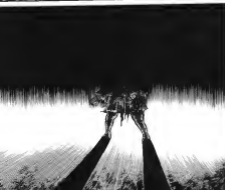
















WHAT!?

SHRIEK!!

MY GOD!!

ARRUUFF!!



SHRIEK!

RUMMF
RUMMF



YOU
STINKING
LITTLE JERK!!
GET OFF!!

SHRIEK!





SHRIEK!



A A A A G H G H G H

ARE YOU OK?

HEY YOU!
STOP!

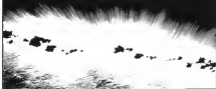
SHRIEK!

ガッガッ
GAG GAG

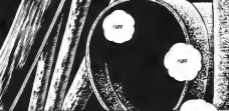














CRASH



GRAB

THAT



SEE IT?

It was the first food
she had had since she
came to the city





10

**世界一の美人を
誰の手に
二ひき寄せた!!**

現年二十歳のハル新地舞
花屋の主人は、
世界の美人を
二ひき寄せた!!

PROMOTE Gals Around Our Mail
Bring us the Girl You—
PROMOTE SCOTT'S EMERALD IN THE SKIN OF
GIRLS.

解し逃走

METROPCS GAS, AIRLESS OIL, FLUID

FROM THE
THE
"A NEW, NEW, NEW..."

謎の怪少女現わる!!



1974 1973

の怪少女現わ

襲われた老人恐怖の証言

「そのとき 震った肉の匂いが……」

事件のあつ



1997















怪少女 また現われ!! ことばは血の海 部屋の中は怖ろしく血の海

Report: Girl Strands Room!
 10-Year-Old Murders—
 By Room Center in Room!

少年バラバラで殺さる!! =謎の人食い少女再び出現= 全身に無数の食いちぎったあと

Her Teeth in Food?
 The Murders Girl Returns—
 Horrifying News
 All over Victim's Body



And so the girl
began to attack
people every day

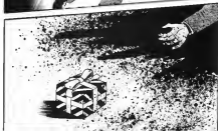


and prowling
the city
by night



Sleeping in dark, desolate
looks through the day

watching people and
relieving her hunger
with their meat.





Meanwhile, her
footsteps were
leading her in
a certain direction.



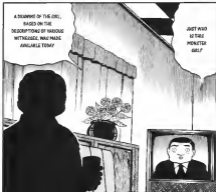
But something beckoned
her to come this way.

Just what awaited her in
that direction was a
mystery to her.



That there was something along the road ...
something waiting for her at the end of the road ...
of this the girl had no doubt.

10. The Hunt





HERE IS THE
DRAWING



MY MIND
JUST CLIPPED

IS NOTHING

DARLING,
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?



NOW, YOU HAVEN'T
HAD THAT MUCH
TO DRINK,
HAVE YOU?

HA HA, SORRY
ABOUT THE
MISC









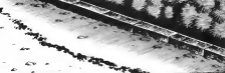
















SHOOT HER
ON SIGHT IF
YOU HAVE TO!

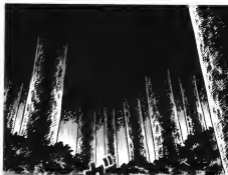
SHE'S GOT TO
BE HEARDY
EVERYBODY BE
VERY CAREFUL!

LOOK!
RIGHT HERE!

AH!



11. Scent of Blood





There was a house
facing the park.....



The mere sight of the
house aroused that
strange feeling inside
the girl.



The girl looked up at the quiet house, as though she were looking at some nostalgic thing from her own past.

"Whatever has been calling to
me and brought me here—
it must be this house!"

"This must be
the place I was
looking for!"



that it was in
this house ...

In her mind
the girl was clearly
convinced ...



that her
first destiny
awaited her ...!







But the moment
she saw her
sleeping face,

She saw a girl
she had never
met before.



moving and yet
distracting the
girl's mind

the strange feeling surged
within her and grew
yet more intense.





she felt that she was looking
at her other half.



As she stared at the
sleeping girl's face,

Instinctually the
memory of the time
they grew together as the
same womb returned
to her.



And in the sleeping
girl she could smell
the same blood
that flowed in her
own veins.



And then the Mysterious
Old Woman's voice
sounded in her mind.

THAT'S RIGHT!
SHE IS
YOUR FAVORITE!
YOU BOTH SAW
IN THE SAME WOMAN!



YOU WERE THROWN AWAY,
AND SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN
ALL THE LOVE AND HAPPINESS!

LOOK!
SHE IS BEAUTIFUL!
CONVINCE YOURSELF
TO HER!



WOULDN'T YOU
LIKE TO BE PRETTY
LIKE HER, AND BE ADORED
BY YOUR PARENTS?

WOULDN'T YOU
LIKE TO LIVE
HAPPILY LIKE HER,
AS A WIFE?



YOU CAN BECOME
BEAUTIFUL LIKE ME!
AND LIVE
HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

HERE AT LAST
IS YOUR CHANCE
TO ALTER
YOUR DESTINY!



YOU MIGHT
SUCK ALL OF
THE BLOOD FROM
HER BODY...

THERE'S
ONLY ONE
WAY TO
DO IT!





DRINK ALL OF
HER BLOOD AND
TRANSFUSE IT WITH
YOUR OWN!



THE CURSED
BLOOD OF
MY FATHERS
IS
DRAINING FROM YOUR
BODY NOW!

LOOK!



AND SHE WILL RECEIVE
THE VENOM FROM YOUR FATHER
AND BECOME THE BRUTAL
CREATURE YOU ARE NOW!

THEN YOU
WILL BECOME HER!



AND SHE WILL HAVE
TO PAY FOR THE HAPPINESS
SHE HAS ENJOYED
BY BEARING THE BURDEN
OF YOUR PRESENT MISERY!

AT LAST
YOU WILL BE
HAPPY AND MAKE
UP FOR YOUR
PAST MISDEED!





OSTER... I
THIS IS MY SISTER!
SHE DRANK THE
DRAPE BLOOD!



I DRINK
HAPPILY AS A
HUMAN
BEING...

IF I
DIED MY
OSTER IS
BLOOD



MY
OSTER IS
BLOOD!

IF I
DIED...





...MY
SISTER'S
BLOOD!



... MY
SISTER'S
BLOOD!



...HER
BLOOD!



But the girl
couldn't do it.

OH...
SLEEP

OH... SLEEP...!

aroused in her the first
humane feeling she had
ever had.

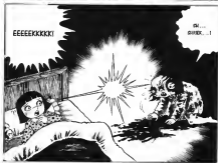
The innocent
sleeping
creature with
the same
blood.



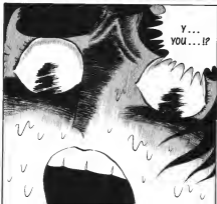
Because she had at last found
what she had been looking for
for such a long time ...

The girl cried!
She trembled and cried
her heart out!













The memory of the brutal night
flashed before the father's eyes,
and in the same instant
the girl came to understand
what had happened
in every detail...

12. Tragic Destiny





...IT IS NOT JUST HER
APPEARANCE THAT
IS ABNORMAL.

BLOOD...



BLOOD - ONE
WHITE BLOOD

SHE REFUSED TO
TAKE ANY MORE...



WH... WHAT
DO YOU MEAN?

B...
BLOOD... IT



SHE CRAWLED OUT
OF HER SURGERY
ROOM AND GOT INTO
THE SUPPLY ROOM
IN THE NIGHT...

WE KEEP SUPPLIES
OF BLOOD FOR
OPERATIONS IN THE
HOSPITAL.







But I couldn't do it! I couldn't kill you! And my
weakness has caused you to suffer like this!!
Oh... please... please forgive me...

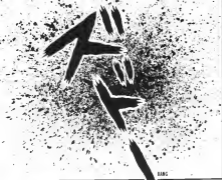
















NOW YOU
HAVE RUINED
YOUR ONLY
CHANCE ...

YOU
FOOL ... !



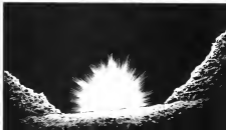
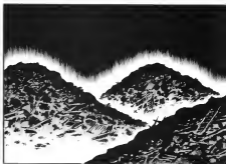
FOREVER!

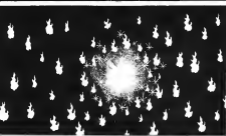
TO ALTER
YOUR
DESTINY ...





13. Return to Darkness







That night, the
fireballs burned
brighter and fiercer
than ever.



"Ah, back in the Graveyard,"
the girl thought as her
dreaming mind.



With her last
remaining strength,
she started
to crawl

There wasn't a
single drop of
blood left in
the girl's body



"I'm completely
satisfied . . ."
the girl thought.

"It's all right.
Everything is
fine . . ."



"I've lost my chance
to live happily as a
human being forever,
but I can't sacrifice
her for my sake. ..."

する する する

SHIRU
SHIRU
SHIRU



"I can't destroy the humble
happiness of my family!
I met my mom and dad and
my sister, too!" I finally
found what I was looking for
for such a long time...
that's all I need..."



"Now all I have to do is
to return ... into that
darkness ..."

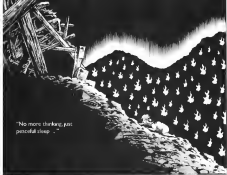


"And there I
will sleep ..."



"Let me return to
that tender darkness,
which gave me refuge
for so long ..."





The instant she entered
the darkness, a sense of relief
came over the girl . . .



"So comforting and quiet.
How good it feels . . ."

"Ah . . . the smell
the darkness . . ."



"I'm sleepy . . . just
sleep now . . ."



In her dreaming mind,
the faces of her father,
mother, and sister
appeared . . .



and zoomed away at
an enormous speed
into the darkness . . .



And soon her mind
was absorbed into the
infinite darkness, the
silence . . .





HIDESHI HINO was born in Manchuria in 1946. His family fled the country soon after his birth, and he nearly lost his life en route to Japan. He began to draw at an early age, and in 1967 his first comic strip, *Cold Sweat*, was published. In 1971 he began a series of graphic novels entitled *Hideshi Hino's Shocking Theater Panorama of Hell*; one of the novels from this series, was published in English by Blast Books in 1989 and in Italian in 1992 by Tatemaco, Bologna.

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